

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 11 to 19 stand rejected. By amendment dated May 7, 2003 applicant tried to submit the language "entirely planar, circumferential" into the phrase "continuous joint surfaces with respect to each other" so as to read "entirely planar, circumferential continuous joint surfaces." Entry of this language was rejected as constituting "new matter." Pursuant to the practice set forth in MPEP Section 608.04(c) where the alleged new matter is introduced into or affects the claims, applicant wishes to appeal the refusal to enter this language.

For the convenience of the Board, the Claims Appendix includes the claims on appeal and the claims with rejected "new matter."